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Letter dated 25 Janunry 2011 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith the resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit at its second session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 19 January 2011 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 January 2011 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit

Second session
Sharm el-Sheikh, 19 January A.D 2011 (15 Safar A.H. 1432)

I. Resolutions

II. Statement on countering terrorism directed against certain population groups in some Arab States and the rejection of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States.

III. The Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration

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Report of the Secretary General on follow-up to implementation of the outcome and resolutions of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009) and the regular Arab Summits held between 2001 and 2010

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on follow-up to implementation of the outcome and resolutions of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009) and the social and economic-related resolutions adopted by the regular Arab Summits that were held between 2001 and 2010,

Having noted the progress that has been made in implementing the outcome, declaration, programme of work and resolutions of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009), and the efforts that are being exerted by member States, Ministerial Councils and the specialized Arab organizations in following up the implementation of the outcome and resolutions of that Summit and the resolutions adopted by the regular Arab Summits that were held between 2001 and 2010,

Affirming the need to continue endeavours to surmount the obstacles that have prevented effective and complete implementation of Summit resolutions,

Having noted the evaluation in the report of the Secretary General of what has been implemented and the proposals for overcoming obstacles to effective and complete implementation of Summit resolutions,

Having heard the presentation made by the Secretary General of the League of Arab States on the progress that has been made in implementing the resolutions of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009) and the regular Arab Summits held between 2001 and 2010, and on the financing problems that prevent the implementation of certain projects,

And in the light of discussions,

Decides:

First: Follow-up to implementation of the social and economic-related resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009):

1. The initiative devised by the Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, concerning provision of the financial resources necessary for the support and funding of small and medium-sized private sector projects in the Arab world:

(a) To take note of the executive measures that have been taken in that regard and announce the contributions made by Arab States, which amount to $1.393 billion of the total $2 billion account capital.

(b) To affirm the importance of the prompt payment of contributions by those States that have not yet contributed.

(c) To request the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to expedite the initiation of funding for small and medium-sized private sector projects in the Arab world, in accordance with the plan for management of initiative accounts.

(d) To request the Arab States to formulate laws and legislation relating to small and medium-sized projects and to exchange expertise and cooperate in that regard.

(e) To request the Secretary General to present a periodic report on this issue to the Economic and Social Council, preparatory to its submission to the Summit.

2. The health status of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip:

(a) To take note of the support that had been provided by member States to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

(b) To take note of the efforts that had been exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Health to maintain and rehabilitate the health status of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

(c) To request the Arab States, in coordination with the Council of Arab Ministers of Health, to continue to provide support for the health sector in Gaza.

(d) To request the Council of Arab Ministers of Health, in coordination with the relevant Arab and international organizations, to formulate a plan for dealing with emergency health cases in the Palestinian territories and, in particular, the Gaza Strip.

(e) To maintain the Arab momentum in the United Nations and its relevant organizations for activating international agreements relating to the protection of civilians in time of war and living under military occupation, with the aim of facilitating humanitarian work and providing the Palestinian people with health assistance; and to work for the lifting of the siege that had been imposed on the Gaza Strip by Israel.

3. The challenges posed to Arab economies by the global financial crisis:

(a) To underline the importance of continuing the efforts that are being exerted by Arab States to minimize the challenges posed by the financial crisis, and of their effective contribution to international efforts to ensure global financial stability.

(b) To take note of the meetings of the Council of Arab Ministers of Finance that are held as part of the meetings of Arab financial institutions, and underline the importance of continued coordination, in accordance with the procedural rules of the Council, in order to ensure financial stability in Arab States.

4. Arab electricity linkage projects:

(a) To take note of the following:

– The positive steps that have been taken by Arab States with a view to facilitating operations related to existing linkages:

• The eight-party electrical link between Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Palestine,* the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey.

* The project for linking Palestine to the electricity resources of the Arab world does not involve the Israeli side at all. The Jordanian grid covers part of the West Bank (Jericho and the central West Bank) and will supply the north. Similarly, with funding from the Arab Fund, the Egyptian grid has been linked to the south of the Gaza Strip. Electricity in the central Gaza Strip is provided by an electricity generation station that is financed in full by the European Union and operated by the Palestinian Energy Authority.

- The electricity link between the States of the Arab Maghreb (Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia).
- The electricity link between the Gulf Cooperation Council States (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates).

– Planned projects to link Arab electrical grids (the linkage between the Saudi and Egyptian grids).

– The executive measures that have been taken with a view to the financing by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the World Bank of a study on linking all the Arab electricity grids and evaluating the use of natural gas to produce electricity.

(b) To take note of the contribution of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to the financing of the first and second parts of the above-mentioned study and the agreement by the World Bank to finance the third part, concerning the institutional and legislative framework.

(c) To invite Arab, regional and international funds to contribute to the financing and preparation of the internal electricity grids of the Arab least-developed States, in order to bring them into line with requirements for Arab electrical linkage.

5. Plans for Arab rail links:

(a) To take note of the steps that have been taken by the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport to implement those plans, and the effective start of implementation of the in-depth study on Arab rail links that was undertaken for the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development by companies with the relevant expertise.

(b) To take note of the Arab Development Bank strategy which prioritizes finance for projects of a regional character.

(c) To take note of current efforts in Arab States to implement the rail link project:

– Completion of the preparation of the economic feasibility study of the Gulf Cooperation Council rail network project.

– Completion by Jordan of its strategy for the development of Jordanian railways.

– Completion by Kuwait of the preliminary study for a rail project to link Kuwait with its neighbours; and the adoption by Kuwait of the rail route in State structural plans.

– The rail link-related measures that have been taken by Yemen, and its signature of an agreement on the preparation of an economic feasibility study of the project for an international line between Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

– The measures that have been taken by the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the status of implementation of the parts of the Arab rail network that fall within its territory.

- The implementation by Egypt of 50 per cent of the rail link between Ismailia and Rafah, on the borders of Palestine, a route which is 235 kilometres in length; laying out of the 170 kilometre line from Salloum to Tobruk, Libya; and preparation of studies on the 500 kilometres of line between Aswan and Wadi Halfa in northern Sudan.

- The preparation by Tunisia of a schedule for implementation of the 592 kilometre high-speed rail link between Tunis and Ras Ejder, on the borders with Libya, and preparation of the terms of reference of the technical study for that route. A timetable has also been devised for the rehabilitation of the existing 215 kilometres of line between Tunis and the Algerian borders to the standard of the first high-speed rail line.

- The initiation by Qatar of a rail project to commence in 2012 and be completed by 2026. It will include freight and passenger lines and provide links to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

- The taking by the United Arab Emirates of preliminary steps to establish a national rail company which will be responsible for the introduction of 1,100 kilometres of track at a cost of between $6.8 and 8.2 billion that will link the United Arab Emirates with Kuwait and Oman.

- The imminent completion by Saudi Arabia of a study on the building of a land bridge, as part of the Saudi rail network programme, for 1,150 kilometres of line to link the two eastern cities of Dammam and Jubail with Jeddah, on the western Red Sea coast.

- The adoption by Algeria of an ambitious plan for the development of the Algerian rail network through to 2025 and allocation to that plan of 500 billion Algerian dinars. The plan includes two east-west routes.

- The establishment by Libya of the executive apparatus and rail project management for the link between the Arab Mashreq and the Arab Maghreb (Ras Ejder — Musaid) and the north-south route (Al-Hayshah — Sabha), in preparation for a 2,006 kilometre link with N'Djamena. The total cost of those routes will be $8 billion.

- The inauguration by Morocco of work on a high-speed line between Tangiers and Casablanca that will cost an estimated $2.5 billion and become operational in 2015.

- The exertion of efforts by Oman to establish rail links between various parts of the country.

(d) To call upon the Arab States to continue to support the implementation of the project to provide rail links.

(e) To call upon the Arab States to submit periodic reports to the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States on the projects that they implement or plan to implement, particularly projects that concern links between Arab countries, with a view to submitting those reports to the forthcoming session of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

6. The emergency programme for Arab food security:

(a) To call upon the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to follow up implementation of the framework plan for implementation of the emergency programme for Arab food security, and ensure that the first stage of the plan is carried out from 2011-2016.

(b) To underline paragraph 2 of Kuwait Summit resolution 6 of 19 January 2009, concerning an appeal to the Governments of the Arab States that benefit from programme components to grant preferential benefits to investors in specific programme fields.

(c) To call upon the relevant Arab States to grant preferential benefits to the private sector in order to increase its investment in specific programme fields.

(d) To call upon the relevant Arab States to supply the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development with any completed feasibility studies on projects that form part of the first stage (2011-2016) of the plan for implementation of the emergency programme for Arab food security.

(e) To request the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to intensify its efforts, in coordination with all the relevant parties, to assist in promoting the programme to Arab and regional financial institutions and funding trusts, in accordance with Kuwait Summit resolution 6 of 19 January 2009.

7. The Arab Customs Union:

To exert greater efforts to complete harmonization of the customs tariff classification tables of Arab States by the end of 2012, in preparation for negotiations over customs tariff categories that are to be concluded within a specific period, in order to ensure that the Arab Customs Union may be announced in 2015.

8. Arab water security:

(a) To take note of the efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Water and the Arab Centre for Studies on Arid Regions and Dry Lands (ACSAD) in preparing the integrated water resource management project, and to request ACSAD to convene coordination sessions with Arab financing institutions with a view to exploring how they may contribute to implementation of the project.

(b) To request the Council of Arab Ministers of Water to expedite completion of the strategy for water security in the Arab region, in order to meet challenges and future requirements for sustainable development, and to submit that strategy to the Economic and Social Council for presentation to the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

9. The integrated programme to support employment and reduce unemployment in the Arab States:

(a) To affirm the need to prioritize employment, particularly youth employment, and to accord the greatest importance to the challenge of unemployment and the hazard it poses to national security; to strengthen Arab cooperation in this field.

(b) To request States members to place greater focus on technical education and training and increase budget allocations for that purpose; and to activate Arab

labour agreements on facilitating the movement of Arab labour forces between the Arab States.

(c) To request States members to support private sector initiatives in implementation of employment programmes and to reduce unemployment at the national and Arab levels by granting tax and insurance benefits to employers and giving preference to qualified Arab labour, second only to national labour.

10. The Arab programme for reducing poverty in the Arab States:

(a) To underline the importance of continued efforts by member States at the national level to implement the Arab programme for reducing poverty in the Arab States by updating and developing their social policies and national strategies for poverty reduction.

(b) To take note of the efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, in coordination with member States, to implement the Arab programme for reducing poverty in the Arab States and prepare the plan for implementation of the programme, in addition to organizing activities and events on poverty reduction policies in a number of Arab countries. In coordination with specialized United Nations agencies, the Council has also devised a poverty reduction policies programme.

(c) To request States members to expedite implementation of the Arab programme for reducing poverty in the Arab States.

(d) To request the General Secretariat, in coordination with member States and the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, to work with Arab, regional and international funding institutions towards finding the requisite mechanisms for funding and implementing the programme.

(e) To make use of the expertise of the specialized United Nations organizations and agencies in implementing the programme.

11. The Arab Programme for Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals:

(a) To underline the importance of continued efforts at the national level by member States to implement the Arab Programme for Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and to call upon those States to continue their efforts to implement that Programme.

(b) To take note of the efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, in coordination with member States and the relevant Arab organizations and United Nations agencies, to implement the Arab Programme for Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, devise the plan for implementation of the Programme, issue relevant Arab reports, and organize training events and workshops.

(c) To request the General Secretariat, in coordination with member States and the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, to work with Arab, regional and international funding institutions towards finding the requisite mechanisms for funding and implementing the programme.

(d) To request States members to build their statistical capacities and devise clear mechanisms for measuring and monitoring progress made towards achieving

the Millennium Development Goals, including the preparation of periodic reports to follow up implementation, consistent with international standards.

12. Improving education in the Arab world:

(a) To take note of the executive measures that have been taken in the two years since the launch of the plan for improving education in the Arab world (2009-2010).

(b) To take note of the attempts that are being made by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization to provide technical support for the urgent requirements of countries with special needs, including the Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Palestine and Somalia, in implementing programmes and projects with priority for those countries.

(c) To request the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization to continue its efforts to develop educational infostructure in the Arab world.

(d) To request the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, in cooperation and coordination with member States, to complete research and studies on the status of education in the Arab world.

(e) To request member States to adopt mechanisms for implementing the plan for improving education that was prepared by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, and to begin implementation, while demonstrating flexibility and reflecting the capacities and adopted policies of States.

13. Improving levels of health care:

(a) To take note of the Arab strategic plan for improving primary health care and family medicine in the Arab countries (2011-2016).

(b) To take note of the signature on 13 December 2009 by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States of a memorandum of understanding with the World Health Organization (Middle East Regional Office) that includes the provision of the technical assistance necessary in order to improve levels of health care, the preparation of programmes and the organization of joint activities, making it possible to benefit from international expertise in that field.

(c) To underline the importance of continued efforts by member States and the Council of Arab Ministers of Health to improve health care standards by developing and upgrading health care units and applying a family health regime, particularly in rural, marginalized and deprived areas, improving the health services provided to women, children and ageing persons, and focusing on building the technical capacities of health teams.

(d) To request member States to expedite the achievement of sufficient numbers of family health specialists and provide incentives for family doctors, as well as to increase the number of centres to provide training in that field.

14. The role of the private sector in supporting joint Arab action:

(a) To call upon the Arab States to prepare the climate for investment by developing and updating legislation relating to the production and service sectors; developing the structure and efficiency of the primary and secondary financial markets, and providing mechanisms to facilitate the establishment of new projects.

(b) To invite the private sector to establish venture companies and devise appropriate mechanisms to encourage investment therein.

(c) To call upon the private sector to contribute through the appropriate channels to implementation of the projects that were endorsed by the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009).

15. Activating the role of Arab civil society organizations:

(a) To call upon the Arab States to support and expand the areas in which Arab civil society organizations and institutions operate as partners in the development process, activate their roles and facilitate their involvement in joint Arab activities.

(b) To urge Arab civil society organizations and institutions to coordinate their efforts and make an effective contribution to development efforts in Arab countries.

Second: Follow-up to implementation of the social and economic-related resolutions adopted by the regular Arab Summits held between 2001 and 2010:

(a) To take note of the report of the Secretary General on implementation of the social and economic-related resolutions adopted by the regular Arab Summits held between 2001 and 2010.

(b) To call upon the Arab States and joint Arab institutions to take action to remove all obstacles to implementation of certain of the above projects.

Summit resolution No. 18, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Projected maritime links between the Arab States

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat and

The report of the Secretary General on joint Arab action and what has been achieved with regard to the enhancement of Arab overland road and rail links,

- With a view to complementing those efforts by enhancing Arab maritime links as a primary element in the organic connection between Arab countries and a factor in the promotion of inter-Arab trade,
- Being cognizant of the efforts to develop the Arab maritime transport system that are currently being exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport, in cooperation with the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport and the Arab confederations concerned with maritime transport and logistics,
- In the light of the Kuwait Declaration and programme of action that were issued by the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009),
- On the basis of the decision in that regard that was adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport at its extraordinary session, held at the Dead Sea in Jordan on 13 and 14 December 2010,
- Having heard the clarifications of the General Secretariat, and
- In the light of the deliberations,

Decides:

1. To support Arab maritime links by means of the following:

(a) Requiring the Arab countries to identify and so develop their major ports as to provide security and safety and respect the environment, in accordance with the usual international models and standards. Up-to-date management systems should be developed and those ports should be linked with various means of transport and logistical areas.

(b) Supporting and operating on sound economic bases Arab maritime transport lines between the major Arab ports; providing all the facilities required for the operation of those Arab maritime transport lines and the utilization by some of those lines of the Short Sea Shipping and Motorways of the Sea system, giving due consideration to the application of the relevant international norms and agreements concerning maritime safety, protection of the marine environment and maritime security.

(c) Establishing national databases with a view to building a joint information network for the Arab maritime transport sector that will ensure linkages and prompt performance and enable the provision and exchange of information.

(d) Promulgating the legislation necessary to regulate the operation of Arab multimodal transport companies; and studying the feasibility of standardizing regulations governing the maritime transportation of goods.

2. To call upon Arab and regional funds and financing institutions, in coordination with the Arab Council of Ministers of Transport, to contribute to the funding of the studies and consultancies necessary for the implementation of the present resolution.

3. To commission the Arab Council of Ministers of Transport to follow up implementation of this resolution and submit periodic reports on the matter to the Economic and Social Council, with a view to submitting those reports to the forthcoming session of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

4. To affirm the importance of the study that was prepared by the United Arab Emirates on the improved management of Arab ports with a view to developing the system of maritime transport between Arab countries and thereby promoting inter-Arab trade.

Summit resolution No. 19, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Project to link Arab Internet networks

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat,

The document concerning the Arab general strategy for information and communications technology and the building of an information society to 2012, and

The report of the regional Arab office on the project to link Arab Internet networks,

- **Appreciating the importance of information and communications technology in developing State economies and achieving the well-being of populations and sustainable development,**
- **Wishing to activate technical cooperation between Arab countries and achieve convergence between the Arab institutions that provide communications and Internet services,**
- **Taking into consideration the goals and themes covered in the above-mentioned document on the Arab general strategy for information and communications technology,**
- **Having heard the clarifications of the General Secretariat, and**
- **In the light of the deliberations,**

Decides:

1. **To welcome the project to link Arab Internet networks.**

2. **To commission the Council of Arab Ministers of Communications and Information Technology to follow up implementation of the project to link Arab Internet networks and present the outcome to the Economic and Social Council, with a view to transferring the same to the forthcoming session of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.**

Summit resolution No. 20, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

World Bank initiative in the Arab world

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat,

The World Bank Arab world initiative,

– The report and recommendations of the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council that was held at League General Secretariat headquarters on 21 December 2010,

– The report and resolutions of the meeting of the Economic and Social Council that was held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 17 January 2011,

– Having heard the clarifications of the General Secretariat, and

– In the light of the deliberations,

***Decides*:**

1. To strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Arab States and the World Bank.

2. To welcome the World Bank Arab world initiative.

3. To commission Arab financial and development institutions and the relevant Arab organizations to intensify cooperation with the World Bank in respect of this initiative.

4. To request the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to submit reports on follow-up to the initiative.

Summit resolution No. 21, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Greater efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat,

The report of the Secretary General on follow-up to implementation of the outcome and resolutions of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009),

- **Affirming the obligation to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,**
- **Stressing the need for the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories to end and be replaced by peace, and for stability to be firmly established if progress is to be made in implementing the Millennium Development Goals,**
- **Taking note of the role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in cooperating with Member States in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,**
- **Having heard the clarifications of the General Secretariat, and**
- **In the light of the deliberations,**

***Decides*:**

1. To take note of the following:

(a) The achievements that have been realized by Arab States towards implementing the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

(b) The efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, in cooperation with member States and United Nations specialized agencies, in preparing Arab reports on achievements and challenges related to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

(c) The efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Health, in cooperation with member States, with a view to implementing Goal 4, concerning the reduction of infant mortality rates, Goal 5, concerning the improvement of maternal health, and Goal 6, concerning the fight against contagious diseases, and the achievements that have been realized by Arab States in those respects.

(d) The efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Environmental Affairs, in cooperation with member States, to implement Millennium Development Goal 7, targets a. and b., by implementing the sustainable development in the Arab region initiative and its executive plan; and their efforts to create the Arab Environment Facility and in respect of climate change.

(e) The efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Water, in cooperation with member States, to implement Millennium Development Goal 7, target c., and to complete, in cooperation with Arab, regional and international organizations, preparation of the standardized form for indicators and standards relating to the provision of water and sanitation.

(f) The efforts exerted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction, in cooperation with member States, to implement Millennium Development Goal 7, target d., particularly with respect to improving the lives of slum dwellers and eradicating slum areas by providing low-cost social housing and building new towns.

2. That the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs should continue its efforts, in cooperation with member States, ministerial councils and the relevant Arab and United Nations specialized organizations, to implement and follow up achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and, in particular, Goal 1, concerning the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

3. To request the following of member States:

(a) To accelerate efforts designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and take action in accordance with national priorities and development plans to achieve and make those Goals sustainable.

(b) To make greater efforts to deal with discrepancies within individual States in implementing the Millennium Development Goals.

(c) To build statistical capacities and establish databases that conform to international standards in order to measure and monitor progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and national and regional variations.

4. To support the Council of Arab Ministers of Health initiative to improve maternal health in Arab countries, as part of implementing Goal 5, targets a. and b., concerning the reduction of maternal mortality rates and provision of access to reproductive health services, and to request member States to contribute extensively and specifically to the Arab conference on maternal health that will be held in 2011 in coordination with the relevant regional and international organizations.

5. To call upon donors, Arab and international funding institutions and the United Nations and its specialized agencies to devise the mechanisms and sources of funding necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and to support the Arab Least-Developed countries in achieving the Goals by 2015.

6. To invite Arab civil society and the private sector to contribute to the funding and support implementation of development programmes and projects that can contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

7. To call for the convening at the end of 2012 of an Arab conference on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the results of which will be submitted to the 2013 Development Summit.

Summit resolution No. 22, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Arab projects in support of the steadfastness of Jerusalem

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat,

The letter from His Excellency the President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, Abu Mazen, and its annex, detailing Arab projects in support of the steadfastness of Jerusalem,

– Having heard the clarifications of the General Secretariat, and

– In the light of the deliberations,

***Decides*:**

To commission the General Secretariat, in coordination with the Palestinian National Authority, the relevant Arab organizations and Arab funding institutions, to study the projects that have been put forward by Palestine with the aim of supporting the steadfastness of Jerusalem in the face of Israeli measures to Judaize the city, with a view to funding those projects from the Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Funds, as appropriate.

Summit resolution No. 23, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Amendment of the name of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered the memorandum of the General Secretariat,

– Having heard the clarifications of the Secretary General on the matter, and

– In the light of the deliberations,

***Decides*:**

1. To amend the name of the Summit to the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

2. To refer to all forthcoming development summits using the designation that is set forth above in paragraph 1 of the present resolution.

3. To commission the General Secretariat to take the requisite measures in this regard.

Summit resolution No. 24, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Time and venue of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (third session)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat,

The resolution of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Summit level (Summit resolution No. 365, regular session 19, 29 March 2007) concerning the convening of an Arab Summit to consider only social, development and economic issues,

The declaration issued by the first Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit (Kuwait, January 2009),

Communication No. 324/524, dated 13 January 2011, from the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the League of Arab States concerning the request to host the forthcoming Arab Economic and Social Development Summit,

Decides:

1. To welcome the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host in January 2013, in its capital, Riyadh, the forthcoming third session of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

2. To request the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to conduct the communications necessary in order to prepare for and arrange the forthcoming Arab Economic and Social Development Summit.

Summit resolution No. 25, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Expression of thanks to Egypt for hosting the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (second session)

The Council of the League at the summit level,

In acknowledgement of Egypt's generosity in hosting the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (second session) and its estimable efforts in preparing for and arranging the Summit,

Decides:

1. To convey best wishes and sincere gratitude to the President, Government and people of Egypt for the warmth of their reception of and generosity of their hospitality to the delegations that took part in the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (second session) that was held in Egypt.

2. To express the greatest thanks and appreciation to His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for the sterling efforts that he exerted in order to make it possible to hold the Summit and ensure its success.

Summit resolution No. 26, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Support for the Sudan

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat,

Communication No. S.SM/regular session/2/5, dated 17 January 2011, from the Permanent Delegation of the Sudan to the League of Arab States,

The recommendations of the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council that was held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 17 January 2011,

– Affirming the resolutions concerning support for the Sudan which were adopted at the extraordinary Summit that was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 9 October 2010,

***Decides*:**

1. That member States should provide financial and economic support to the Sudan and encourage its endeavours to uphold stability and establish peace, and support development efforts within a comprehensive framework that will guarantee stability and peace in all parts of the Sudan.

2. To call upon member States to implement resolution No. 545, concerning the Sudan, which was adopted at the extraordinary Summit in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 9 October 2010, in which it was decided to provide the Sudan with immediate aid to the value of $1 billion, with a view to upholding stability, development and peace.

3. To urge member States to make effective contributions to efforts in support of development and stability in the Sudan and, in particular, with respect to the infrastructural links between the northern and southern parts of the country and with neighbouring Arab countries.

4. To urgently request member States and Arab joint funding and technical institutions to provide the Sudan with material and technical support and guidance in support of projects that aim to unite north and south and, in particular, in the border provinces.

5. To urgently request member States and Arab funding institutions to address the issue of the debts owed to them by the Sudan and endeavour, by means of international initiatives, to deal with the country's foreign debts, which constitute an immense burden on the Sudanese economy that impacts negatively on development efforts.

Summit resolution No. 27, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Support for Somalia

The Council of the League at the summit level,

Having considered:

The memorandum of the General Secretariat,

The letter from the Government of Somalia concerning implementation of the resolution which was adopted at the extraordinary Summit that was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 9 October 2010,

The recommendations of the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council that was held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 17 January 2011,

– **Reaffirming the resolutions concerning support for Somalia which were adopted at the extraordinary Summit that was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 9 October 2010,**

Decides:

1. **That member States should provide financial support to the Government of Somalia in accordance with the resolution concerning support for Somalia which was adopted at the extraordinary Summit that was held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 9 October 2010.**

2. **That the General Secretariat should, in the short term, finance the plans of the Somali Government for the activation and building of State institutions and national reconciliation efforts with monies provided by member States for the implementation of resolutions adopted at the Sirte Summit.**

3. **To urge member States to make effective contributions to efforts in support of development and stability in Somalia and, in particular, in support of efforts to uphold and build State institutions and promote Somali reconciliation.**

Summit resolution No. 28, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

Statement issued by the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit on countering terrorism directed against certain population groups in some Arab States and the rejection of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States

Sharm el-Sheikh, 19 January 2011

The Arab leaders who have gathered at the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit, having considered the general Arab situation and the various developments in and internal and external challenges that are being faced by Arab societies, strongly condemn the terrorist acts that have recently been perpetrated on sectarian, ideological or racist pretexts in several parts of the world, including the Arab region. The fact that such acts should be committed in our region conflicts with our heritage. This region was the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of all the divinely-revealed religions, and for many centuries led the way in establishing a culture of mutual coexistence between the followers of those religions.

The leaders absolutely deplore the events that took place in the Church of Our Lady of Salvation in Baghdad and the Two Saints Church in Alexandria, Egypt, and stress that the terrorist targeting of this group of citizens is intended to spread civil strife, provocation and discrimination amongst the various components of our Arab peoples, with a view to weakening and unravelling the fabric of society and undermining the stability of the Arab nation. The adherents of the divinely-revealed religions have long lived together in this nation, in a climate of peace and harmony, and have together steadfastly confronted crises and challenges and maintained close ties and mutual trust, united by their religious beliefs and values, which demonstrate that they have essentially the same humanitarian principles. The leaders also affirm their solidarity with Yemen in the face of the terrorist acts to which it is being subjected, that are directed against its security and stability.

The leaders' understanding of the dimensions and aims of those attempts to sow panic have strengthened their resolve to make every effort and take every initiative to establish a spirit of religious tolerance and dialogue between the various sects, religions and cultures. Such initiatives have included the call from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, for interfaith dialogue, and the "A Common Word" initiative introduced by His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, both of which were warmly received throughout the world.

While the leaders reiterate their condemnation of all types of terrorism, on whatever pretext, and renew their commitment to confront hotbeds of terrorism anywhere in the Arab world and criminalize the payment of ransoms to terrorists or terrorist groups or organizations, they also completely reject all attempts by certain foreign States and parties and, in particular, certain Western circles, to intervene in the internal affairs of Arab States on pretexts that include the protection of minorities, which demonstrate their ignorance of the nature, causes and goals of terrorism, from which no country in the world is exempt.

The leaders are well aware of the dimensions and aims of those terrorist movements and do not accept that events can be used to justify the vilification of Islam and Muslims, or to stir up strife between Muslims and Christians, who are all

closely woven together in a fabric that has taken shape over many centuries of coexistence in the Arab region.

The leaders therefore affirm that it is the Arab States that have responsibility for protecting their own citizens, and that they are capable of doing so. They reiterate their demand that the international community should renew its commitment to combat terrorism and the forces of all types of extremism; and warn of the perils of fomenting dissension on the grounds of religion or race between the citizens of any State. They urge the States of the world to join them in responding to the Egyptian call for an international conference on counter-terrorism. Nowhere in the world does terrorism differentiate between the innocent on grounds of colour, gender or religion.

The leaders are determined to take action to confront the discords that threaten the region and to provide the proper climate for the peaceful coexistence of their peoples in an atmosphere of freedom, equality, and commitment to rights and responsibilities and proper behavioural and moral precepts. They will operate on the basis of the principle of equal citizenship, with no differentiation between citizens on the grounds of race or religion. They affirm that religious and cultural diversity is one of the richnesses of Arab society and one element of its strength and advancement.

Summit statement No. 2, regular session 2, third meeting, 19 January 2011.

The Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration

We, the Heads of Arab States and Governments who, on 19 January 2011, are gathered together in the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh at the second session of the Arab Economic, Development and Social Summit, hereby renew our complete commitment to the development strategies that were approved at the Kuwait Summit on 19 and 20 January 2009, and affirm that we will advance the human, economic, social and technological development of our Arab societies and will activate and develop our joint Arab action mechanisms, under the aegis of the League of Arab States, with a view to ensuring a better future for our peoples and for future generations.

With regard to the priorities that have been established for the joint Arab action to be taken in the social and economic areas, an evaluation was conducted of the progress that has been made in integrating the Arab economies, with particular reference to the field of regional infrastructure, where the foremost projects concern road and electricity linkages. All those ambitious projects have made commendable progress, which must be maintained until the laudable goals are achieved. The prospects for maritime links between our countries were explored. Such links would significantly strengthen inter-Arab trade. Consideration was given to the advancement of information connections by linking Arab Internet networks; development in various fields in a number of Arab countries; the Great Arab Free Trade Area; movement towards the establishment of the Arab customs union; and the decisions that have been taken with a view to increasing inter-Arab investment and enabling the private sector and civil society to make an effective contribution to the overall development process.

Food security is one of the foremost priorities of the Arab States, and a new approach must be adopted to dealing with it if we are to achieve such security for our Arab societies. Arab water security will be another priority action area for years to come, particularly in view of the challenges posed by climate change, which have an impact on and reduce water resources. We will therefore implement the Arab water security strategy throughout the Arab region.

Given that the Arab region is facing ever-increasing risks as a result of the degradation of environmental systems and the natural disasters that are occurring regularly because of increasing geological and climate changes, which have a direct impact on lives, infrastructure, means of livelihood and sustainable development, we affirm implementation of the Arab strategy to reduce disaster risk 2020 and commitment to the Arab declaration and statement on climate change and the related resolutions, and promise to devise an Arab plan for dealing with climate change.

In view of our concern for the well-being and future of Arab citizens, consultations took place on ways of overcoming obstacles to achieving the Millennium Development Goals; the importance of building and activating human capacities; improving education and scientific and technical research; encouragement and support for innovation; the empowerment of women to play an effective and fundamental role in Arab societies; poverty reduction; unemployment; and the provision of higher standards of health care, all of which are fundamental components in the development of our societies in forthcoming decades.

In affirmation of our commitment to provide the Arab peoples with opportunities that will equip them to contribute effectively to society and provide

them with prospects for employment, and further to the initiative that was launched by the Emir of Kuwait regarding the establishment of a fund to finance small and medium-sized private sector industries, with capital of $2 billion, which we are convinced will increase the value of Arab economies and the contribution they can make to lowering levels of poverty and unemployment and providing employment opportunities, particularly for the youth who represent 25 per cent of the total population of our societies, we welcome the launching of and will contribute to the fund. The Arab Economic and Social Development Fund will be responsible for managing that account.

Well aware of the capacities of our region in the fields of energy, foremost among which are oil and natural gas, and the global importance of our geographic location as an international supply crossroad, our countries are continuing to develop the optimum means of exploiting those capacities and are investing in them in a manner that reflects the effective contribution that is made by the Arab region to ensuring global energy security, which may alleviate the current crisis in the global economy.

Notwithstanding the huge capacities possessed by some Arab countries in respect of energy, we have agreed on the need to exploit some of the other possibilities and energies to which our countries have access, including new and renewable energy, wind power, the peaceful use of nuclear power and solar power, all of which make it possible to acquire modern technology and create employment opportunities while conserving and developing the environment. The region needs such clean sources of energy and new fresh water resources, in addition to the new employment opportunities that are offered by those technologies.

With regard to the establishment of the Arab customs union, we considered the efforts to finalize the harmonized Arab customs law and the work that is currently being done to complete by the end of 2012 the harmonized Arab customs tariff schedule. Once that has been approved, the Arab customs union will be declared in 2015. The final step will be the inauguration in 2020 of the joint Arab market.

Against the background of developments in respect of global economic cooperation, we welcome the World Bank Arab world initiative, which will strengthen the cooperation and coordination of Arab countries with the World Bank, as well as reinforcing cooperation between Arab financial and development institutions and the relevant Arab organizations in respect of this initiative.

The Arab world is undeniably an integral part of the global system, and global developments impact on it both positively and negatively. No society can take a firm step on the road to development without an excellent understanding of what is going on in the world around it. The global financial crisis has undoubtedly made profound changes in the world economic map and has made it inevitable that we must coordinate our economic and monetary policies and contribute to international efforts aimed at ensuring global financial stability, thereby avoiding, to the extent possible, any negative impact on our economies. We also underline our dismissal of the obstacles that are imposed unilaterally on certain Arab States: such obstacles have a negative impact on development efforts in those countries.

We affirm our determination to continue our efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals and overcome obstacles to their realization in our region by 2015.

Agreement was reached on the need to develop joint Arab action and take it to a new stage: that of building new partnerships with regional and international blocs and a variety of countries, including China, India, Japan, Turkey, the Russian Federation, the African States, the countries of South America and the Pacific islands, with a view to interacting with the effects of globalization and strengthening and developing action that is taken with various States, through gatherings, programmes and cooperation policies with those countries and groupings. We affirm our commitment to activating the economic and social aspects of the Arab-African Partnership Strategy and its programme of action, and our commitment to continue to pursue cooperation with the countries of South America by holding the third Arab-South America Summit in Peru in February 2011.